

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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August 12, 2018

### “Paul’s Appeal to the Scriptures”

By Jim Walsh

To appeal to God’s word as the only standard upon which we can agree, is seen as archaic and too simplistic in today’s modern religious world. The religious world of today believes that man and his ways are too complicated to be guided by a set of “rules and regulations” that were established over three thousand years ago.



Yet, that is where they are wrong. It is precisely our appeal to God’s word that will guide and save us. God is the only one who can guarantee our salvation and eternal life. Thus, we see that it is by and through His word, and His word alone, we can have hope! The apostle Paul knew this, and that is why his appeal was always to the power and authority of God’s word. Notice in Acts 17:2, “*Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures*” Paul went where the people were reading the law of Moses and “*reasoned with them*” why they should believe and obey Jesus— as the Messiah they were looking for. He could use the Old Testament prophecies and predictions to plainly show how only Jesus could fit the scriptures teachings concerning their Savior.

Paul began his introduction to the Roman epistle, by speaking of the gospel, “*which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures*”.

And this appeal would be repeated several times in Romans, as he would say, “*For what does the Scripture say?*” (Romans 4:3)

In Romans 9:17, he said, “*For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.*”

Paul refers to the hope and assurance of why we believe the gospel in Romans 10:11, “*For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*”

Paul would conclude to the Romans by saying that the scriptures are a source of our hope, “*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*”

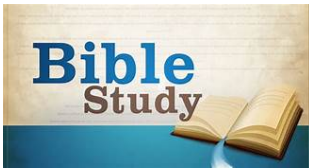
Paul would speak of the very heart and core of the gospel message as scripture in I Corinthians 15:3-4, “*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*”

Paul would give us the reason why the young preacher Timothy was grounded in the scriptures, and also why we need to be grounded too— “*And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

Paul did not make his appeal to the sophistry and wisdom of his day, as men are wont to do. He was “wiser” than men when preaching from the scriptures “the foolishness of God.” (I Corinthians 1:25) He fully knew that it is God who will save us and provide for us. Thus, we must appeal to His word and His ways, if we have any hope for His glory.

Do not be fooled by the religious world of today and its errors. It is only by and through God’s word that we can be guided to the safety of eternal life. Men often will appeal to emotions and a “*better felt than told*” experience, rather than the scriptures. But when men abandon or ignore the scriptures, they do so to their own destruction and peril (2 Peter 3:15-16).

But it is a true statement, that we are never more like the early disciples (Acts 17:11) and the apostle Paul, who imitated Jesus (I Corinthians 11:1), than when we are appealing to the scriptures for our doctrine and morality. Jesus appealed to the scriptures for the basis of truth in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:24, Mark 14:49, Luke 24:27, and most notably in John 5:39.



**A Women’s Bible Class**  
Will meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM.  
Ask Chris or Kathrine Callahan for details.

*“When an honest man discovers he is mistaken, he will either cease to be mistaken or cease to be honest.”* —Anonymous

*“A closed Bible is a closed mind!”* —Anonymous

**Spotlight On A Bible Verse:**  
**Jeremiah 29:11**

***“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”***

This passage is misused and abused by many in the religious world. Like every other Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11 has a context we must respect. Unfortunately, not many respect the context. Some read this verse and act as if the “you” in this passage applies to Bible believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is incorrect.

Jeremiah 29:11 is a part of a letter Jeremiah wrote to the remnant that had been taken captive by Babylon (v. 1). God encouraged them to understand His thoughts for them were for their peace, and to give them an “*expected end*” (KJV). Other versions say, “future filled with hope”, or “a future and a hope”. When we remember that “hope” in Biblical terms means “earnest expectation,” then we see how an “expected end” and a “future hope” are parallel terms. Put simply, God had given these people hope in the midst of sorrow and hardship in Babylon. Jeremiah makes it clear that they could face the unknown in a strange land because of God!

While this passage was not written to those of us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are applications in this passage that we can make to ourselves (Rom. 15:4). For example, there is hope in Christ for the child of God who endures hardship and trials while upon this earth (Jas. 1:12). God has our best interests in mind, just as He had those Israelites’ best interest in mind. Friend, even when we don’t understand “why” or cannot see the purpose behind what is happening to us, always remember that God’s ways are best. His ways are motivated by a true and sincere love for us (I Jn. 4:8).

- Jarrod Jacobs

## The Bible—the Word of God

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of life, and the doom of sinners, the happiness of believers. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It gives light to direct you food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the soldier's sword, the Christian's chart and compass. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven is opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand theme, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure, and a garden of flowers. It is given us in life, will be open in the Judgment, and remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle its holy contents. Author unknown

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), Charlene Newborn, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Madeline Flippo, Karey Trimble, Jerry Trimble, Janis Johnson, Randy Ferrell (Recovering from double bypass heart surgery in Ky.), Delain Doles (recovering from surgery this past Monday), and Daniel Holloway

Our Gospel Meeting with Trey Haskett begins Sunday—October 21st to the 26th.  
(7:00 PM Nightly— Monday thru Friday)

### Those Who Serve:

#### **Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:**

Nathan Meade

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"There's A Great Day Coming!"*

#### **Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am**

#### **Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

Jerry Kennemur

The Book of John (Mike Willis)

*Lesson 4, Page 23, Question #1*

#### **Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:**

Paul Busby

**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:**

Russell Briggs

*Matthew 24:42-44*

**Song Leader:**

Lee Busby

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Johnson

**Assisting:**

Lee Busby & Adam Harris

**Preaching:**

Brian Meade

**Sermon:**

*"Those Who Are Ready"*

**Closing Prayer:**

Tim Harris Jr.

### Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

#### **August 15th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:**

Russell Briggs

1 & 2 Kings (Mike Willis)

*Lesson 4, Page 20, Question #1*

**Invitation:**

Adam Harris

**Song Leader:**

Chris Callahan

**Closing Prayer:**

Tim Harris Sr.